

MILITARY HEADS HOLD CONFERENCE

Conditions on Texas Border and Movement of Troops to Vera Cruz Considered.

NO NEW ARMY ORDERS ISSUED

Ways and Means for Future Possible Operations Discussed at Length.

Washington, April 25.—A lengthy conference early today between Secretary of War Garrison, chief of staff, General Wetherston, Major-General Wood and other officers, was the culmination of a night of bustling activity at the War Department. Strict secrecy was maintained as to the conference, but conditions on the Texas border and the movement of the troops to Vera Cruz were said to have been considered.

The military heads, it was reported, discussed conditions generally with particular reference to the situation on the Texas border. Word was received that troops ordered from the Pacific Coast to the Texas border were en route for Fort Sam Houston. Reports that General Wood and General Scott had been ordered to Vera Cruz to take charge of the army movements there were emphatically denied, and General Wetherston declared early today that absolutely no new army orders had been issued.

The attack on Laredo by Mexican Federalists, evacuating Nuevo Laredo, across the border, was especially discussed, and the sending of the Texas militia into the field as an aid to the federal troops on border patrol was also taken up.

The conference further considered and prepared to meet the possibility of a change in the situation which might put the Constitutionalists in Northern Mexico on the offensive. The possibility of mobilizing the militia under the new volunteer army

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bill, which was laid before the President for his signature, also was discussed. Organization of the volunteer forces under the new measures will call for a large amount of detailed work, and the department wishes to be fully prepared to handle it. Ways and means for future possible operations were discussed at length. Various plans for movements of all sorts in Mexico have been submitted to the chiefs of the department, and while no definite plan has been outlined, all have been given consideration. The conference reviewed several possible operations which might be made necessary by a declaration of war, or by an attack by Huerta forces.

MEXICANS INSULT STARS AND STRIPES

Mobs in Streets of Capital City Trample National Flag Under Foot.

Mexico City, April 23 (By Refugee Train to Vera Cruz, April 25).—Mobs in the streets of Mexico City were trampling under foot the Stars and Stripes and were threatening American pedestrians when the refugee train, engaged upon the auspices of the British and German legations, left for Vera Cruz carrying some 500 fugitives of various nationalities.

The position of these American citizens left in the Federal capital was regarded as intolerable. After the news of the landing of American bluejackets and marines at Vera Cruz was made known in the Federal capital by extra editions of the local newspapers, crowds of students and government office employees began to gather.

By dusk a mob had been assembled in front of the American Club, where they smashed windows and hoisted insults and threats at the American citizens inside, all of whom they threatened to assassinate.

An appeal to the Governor of Federal district brought police protection, but not before the crowd had shattered many of the windows in the clubhouse and in adjoining properties, belonging to Americans.

Until 2 o'clock in the morning bands of excited Mexicans marched through the streets singing the Mexican national anthem and shouting "Death to the American." An American jewelry store was looted by the mob at midnight. The police looked on, but took no action.

The American Club, the leading American hostelry and the office of the Mexican Herald were closed, owing to the threats of the mobs to burn them and murder their occupants.

The British, Germans and French in the Federal capital were prepared at a moment's notice to gather in the previously arranged concentration districts, which had been provisionally withdrawn.

The newspapers, probably acting under the directions of General Huerta, issued many extra editions, in which they printed dispatches stating that El Paso, Laredo, Nogales and other places had been taken by the Mexicans.

Other dispatches announced that the battleship Louisiana had gained a great victory at Vera Cruz, where they expected to surround and drive the invaders into the sea.

The papers also declared that the battleship Louisiana had been sunk by Mexican torpedoes.

An alleged dispatch from the South said that Emiliano Zapata, the Southern rebel, was coming to join forces with General Huerta.

All the American officials employed by the National Railroad and the Mexican Railroad Company were immediately discharged by the government in order that no trains could be operated except under the supervision of the government.

ON STRICT WAR FOOTING

Colonel Goethals Issues Orders Concerning Canal Zone. Panama, April 25.—Colonel George W. Goethals, Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, has issued orders placing the Canal Zone on a strict war footing. He instructed Major Gerhardt, commanding the Tenth Infantry, to send two companies of infantry to control the Gatun Locks and one each for duty at the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel locks. The soldiers were given rounds of ammunition each, and will camp near the locks.

The operating machinery of all the locks will be securely locked and the keys placed in the possession of Colonel Goethals. It is understood that artillery companies will be distributed among fortifications at both ends of the zone.

Colonel Goethals' action is believed to have been the result of anti-American sentiment expressed in newspapers which were making their appearance in the streets of Panama and shown editorially in El Diaro, which is strongly pro-Mexican. There are 250 Mexican employees on the canal, and their presence probably had something to do with the action of Colonel Goethals.

Gerardo Rodriguez, a Mexican resident of this city, was arrested today by the Panama authorities at the request of the Canal Zone police. He is charged with making inflammatory anti-American speeches, and probably will be deported.

Severe Criticism of Wilson.

London, April 25.—While acknowledging the broad American government's action towards Mexico is justified, the Nation severely criticizes President Wilson. "A statesman who interferes to restore order," it says, "may argue that at some cost he is putting an end to anarchy and to intolerable violence and cruelty, but the statesman who sacrifices lives and some personal detail in the hope of restoring order is unworthy of a civilized ruler."

The Saturday Review says if the intention is avowed to establish a stable and permanent government in Mexico City, the United States can feel certain that their action will be watched with sympathy and approval by the other great powers.

RED CROSS CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Issues Appeal to Richmond Medical Men to Follow Troops.

A call for volunteers for Red Cross work with the American troops in Mexico was issued yesterday by the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery at the request of the Washington headquarters of the American Red Cross Society. The society appeals to all able-bodied men of medical training in Richmond and the contiguous territory, who are willing to sacrifice time and energies for their country to come to the assistance of the Red Cross workers.

Transportation, food and shelter and adequate compensation will be furnished the volunteers. According to the statement of the academy, few of the volunteers will be required to advance further than the bases from which the troops will operate.

The local committee on Red Cross work, composed of Dr. Charles V. Carrington, chairman; Dr. Mark W. Poyser, secretary; Dr. M. D. Hoge, Jr., Dr. E. G. Williams and Dr. E. C. Levy, will receive the applications of Red Cross volunteers. The committee will meet on Tuesday night at 8 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce Building, to receive applicants and examine them for fitness and ability.

Names Wanted at Once. Medical men who desire to respond to call should communicate at once with some member of the committee.

Dr. Mark W. Poyser, secretary of the Academy of Medicine and Surgery, issued the following statement yesterday:

"Owing to recent developments with Mexico, it is highly probable that the Red Cross will be called upon to give assistance to the armed forces of the United States in the care of the sick and wounded."

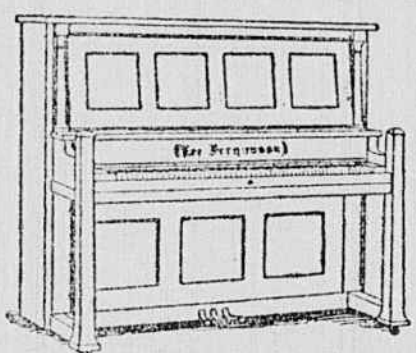
"The committee on Red Cross medical work of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery has been called upon by the Washington headquarters to nominate and furnish a list of medical men in this vicinity who are thoroughly qualified, are in good physical condition and who will be willing to act in the service of the Red Cross."

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NO MORE TROUBLE AT NUEVO LAREDO

Nothing to See But Ruins of Buildings—Damage Estimated at \$500,000.

Laredo, Texas, April 25.—After a night of suppressed excitement and anxiety, Laredo this morning awoke to the realization that the trouble across the river was over. A few smoldering fires still showed the presence of fire, but most of the fires were out, either extinguished by the rain that fell during the early part of the night, or dying out for lack of material to burn. None of the Mexicans returned to Nuevo Laredo this morning. A few men crossed the International Bridge, but there was nothing to see but the ruins of the buildings. The drug store of Shelby Threlton, American vice-consul, suffered no damage, although buildings directly in front of it were completely destroyed.

A conservative estimate of the damage places the loss at nearly \$500,000. During the night no attempt was made to fire or blow up either of the bridges across the Rio Grande. This, in part, is due to the fact that the railroad bridge was practically illuminated by headlights from two locomotives, while the International Bridge was lit from a searchlight made from a moving picture projector, which lighted up the piers and approaches on the Mexican side.

Smouldering ruins in what was once the populous Mexican border town of Nuevo Laredo and hundreds of destitute refugees huddled in every possible shelter here, were visible reminders to-day of the desolation wrought late yesterday by Mexican Federalists who burned and dynamited their one-time stronghold until driven away by the American border patrol.

Excitement occasioned when the international line and the sharp changes with the United States troops, died down quickly when the Federalists, but left a strong feeling of uneasiness in its wake. All night a reinforced patrol, aided by citizen volunteers, guarded every foot of the river front, and heavy guards were maintained at the two international bridges. It was feared that other attempts to dynamite this communication between the two countries would be made.

Two Mexicans were shot yesterday attempting to destroy the bridges. Some of the more nervous citizens fear another visit of the Federalists to attack Laredo itself, but army officials, though every precaution is being taken, do not believe there is any danger.

It was definitely ascertained to-day that the wild shooting of the Mexicans had done no damage on the American side.

FIRST REFUGEES REACH GALVESTON

Quarantine Regulation Is Most Serious Problem in Receiving Rush of Americans.

Galveston, Texas, April 25.—The vanguard of several thousand refugees from Mexico, headed for Galveston, arrived here to-day on the United States collier Cyclops from Vera Cruz and Tampico and the steamer Trinidadian from Tampico. Each vessel carried several hundred refugees, the majority being Americans. To-morrow 1,500 refugees are due on the steamer Esperanza, from both Vera Cruz and Tampico.

A most serious problem in receiving this rush of Americans is the quarantine regulation that they must spend six days in detention quarters, because the ports from which they come are believed to harbor yellow fever. Already there are messages on file here with Major L. L. McGlasson, State quarantine officer, urging him to find certain individuals among the incoming mass of refugees and to send them "home" without delay, because mothers or other relatives are believed to be dying.

Dr. McGlasson has ordered 400 new cots installed in the hospital at the United States Immigration Station at Pelican Island, where the refugees will be housed during detention. Efforts to induce authorities to waive or mitigate immigration restrictions have not yet succeeded.

BITTER AGAINST UNITED STATES

Valparaiso, Chile, April 25.—Public opinion here is bitter against the United States as a result of the Mexican crisis. In an editorial, the Union asks if there is an international morality, and continues:

"The war in Mexico is the result of a want of common sense and of the revolutions in Mexico. The proceedings of the United States are not justified. The country cannot be the judge of foreign civil wars, and ought to have limited its protection to its nationals and its frontiers. The war against Huerta offends the Mexican nation. The conflict will end as on another occasion, in a new dismemberment of Mexico. The punishment is out of proportion to the offense—the incident at Tampico—and is a threat against the rest of America."

The Mercury says it is astonished at the excessive importance attached to the Monroe Doctrine in Europe. It adds that the Latin-American republics are in the same condition of perfect equality as other nations, and are not subject to, and never will accept foreign interference.

TROOPS PREPARING TO GO TO MEXICO

Cavalry and Artillery Branches Will Follow Infantrymen to Vera Cruz.

Galveston, Texas, April 25.—The cavalry and the artillery branches of the Fifth Brigade of the United States Army were rushing preparations to-day to follow the 3,400 infantry men

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who sailed for Vera Cruz yesterday. At Texas City, the chartered steamer Sattilla was almost ready to take aboard the twenty-four mountain guns, the men and the horses of the Fifth Field Artillery. The Sattilla might get away to-night, and will be ready to sail to-morrow if necessary, but the chartered vessel which is to carry the Sixth Cavalry, the San Marcos, will not be ready before Monday and possibly later. Work of building horse pens on the San Marcos began to-day. Four torpedo boats are due here from Port Arthur to be available for conveying the Sattilla and the San Marcos.

Among the stores loaded on the Sattilla was a big supply of firewood. It was said firewood is very scarce about Vera Cruz. The wood is used, not only beneath the army's broad ovens, but in the incinerators, which are a big factor in maintaining health in camp. The incinerators burn all camp garbage, even to many liquids.

Japan Will Keep "Hands Off." Tokyo, April 25.—The Japanese Premier to-day authorized the statement that "Japan has no intention whatsoever of utilizing the present trouble between the United States and Mexico to secure from the United States a satisfactory settlement of the California difficulty."

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